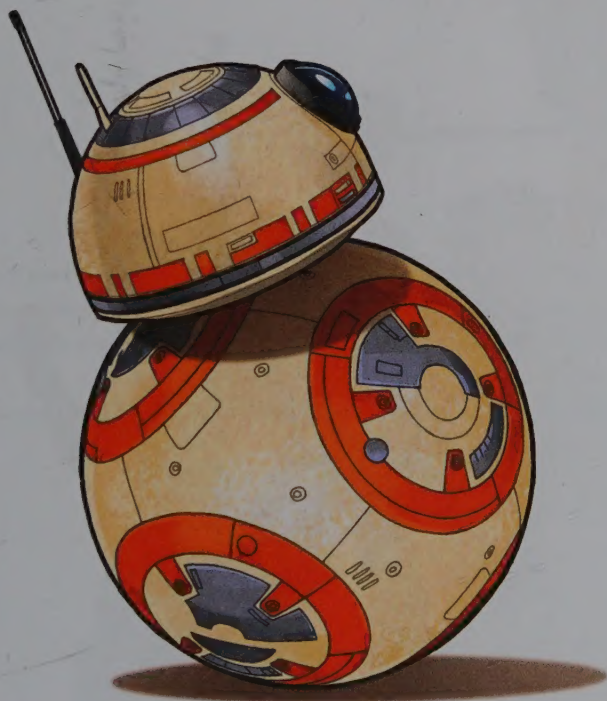
The cover art features a dynamic illustration of Star Wars characters against a dark blue space background with stars and distant planets. At the top, three X-wing fighters fly in formation. In the center, Chewbacca, Han Solo, and Luke Skywalker are prominent, with Luke holding a glowing green lightsaber. To the right, Padmé Amidala is shown in her white gown, holding a blaster. In the bottom left, Rey is depicted in her desert attire, holding a staff. In the bottom right, Finn is shown in his Resistance uniform, holding a blaster. The droids C-3PO, R2-D2, and BB-8 are also featured. The title '5-MINUTE STAR WARS HERO STORIES' is written in large, bold, white letters across the center. A circular badge in the top right corner contains the text 'FEATURING 5 Heroic Stories from the Best-Selling 5-Minute Star Wars Stories'.

FEATURING
5 Heroic Stories
from the
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5-Minute
Star Wars
Stories

5-MINUTE STAR WARS HERO STORIES

**5-MINUTE
STAR
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"Destroy the Death Star!" written by Trey King

"A Jedi, You Must Become" written by Andy Schmidt and illustrated by Stephane Roux and Pilot Studio

"The Ewoks Join the Fight" written by Brooke Dworkin

"A Friend for Rey" and "Rathtars on the Loose!" written by Elizabeth Schaefer

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STAR WARS™

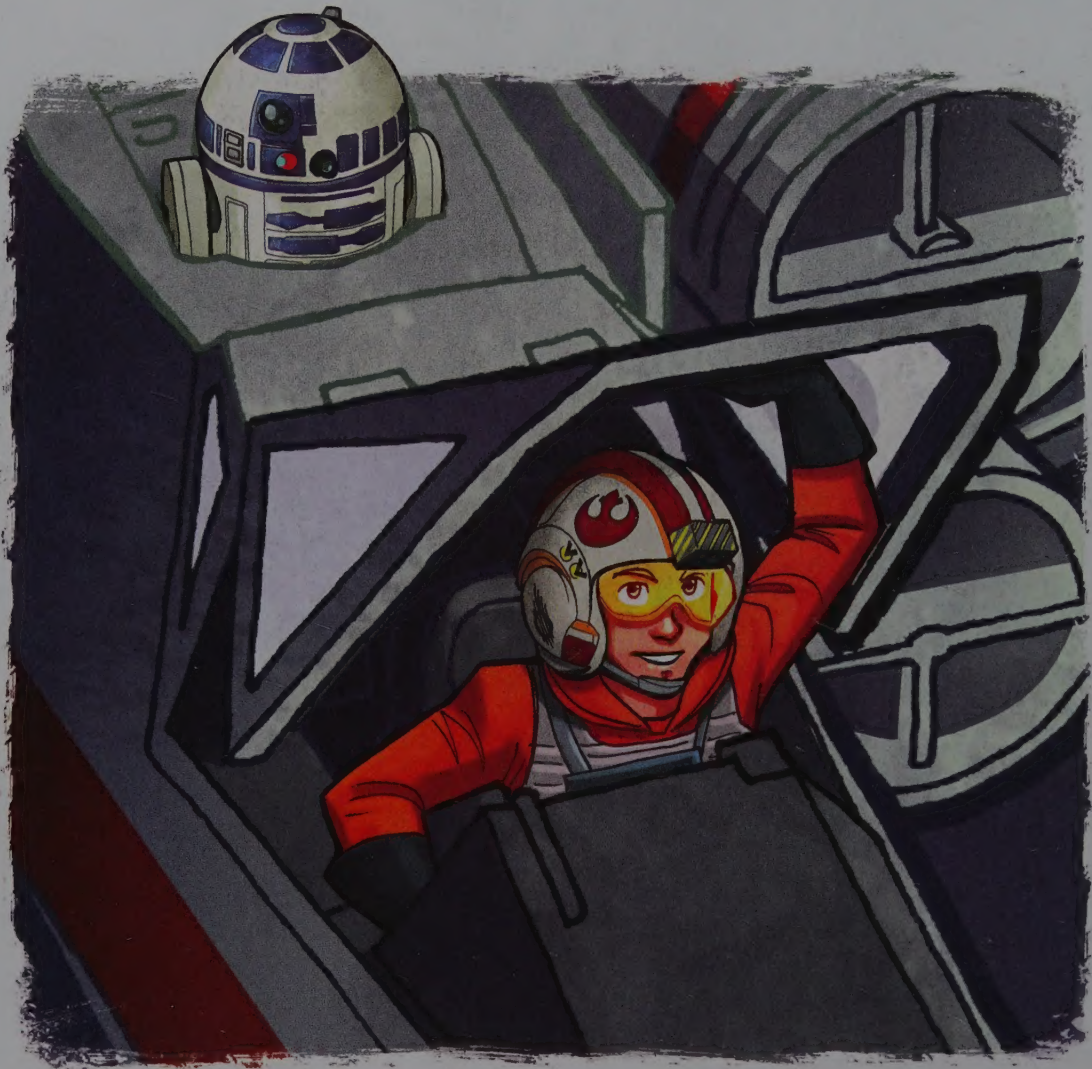
DESTROY THE DEATH STAR!

For years the Rebellion had struggled against the evil Galactic Empire. Now, for the first time, the rebels had an advantage. They had discovered a weakness in the Empire's greatest weapon—the Death Star.

"They could use a good pilot like you," Luke Skywalker said to his friend Han Solo as the rebels prepared for their attack.

"Sorry, kid," Han said. The smuggler wasn't interested. He had more important things to do.





Luke walked away disappointed. But he needed to keep his mind on the mission. At times like this, he missed his old teacher, Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Luke climbed into the cockpit of his X-wing while they loaded his astromech droid, R2-D2, into the ship. Luke was glad the little droid was his copilot. The two friends had been through a lot together.

The fleet of X-wings flew toward the space station.

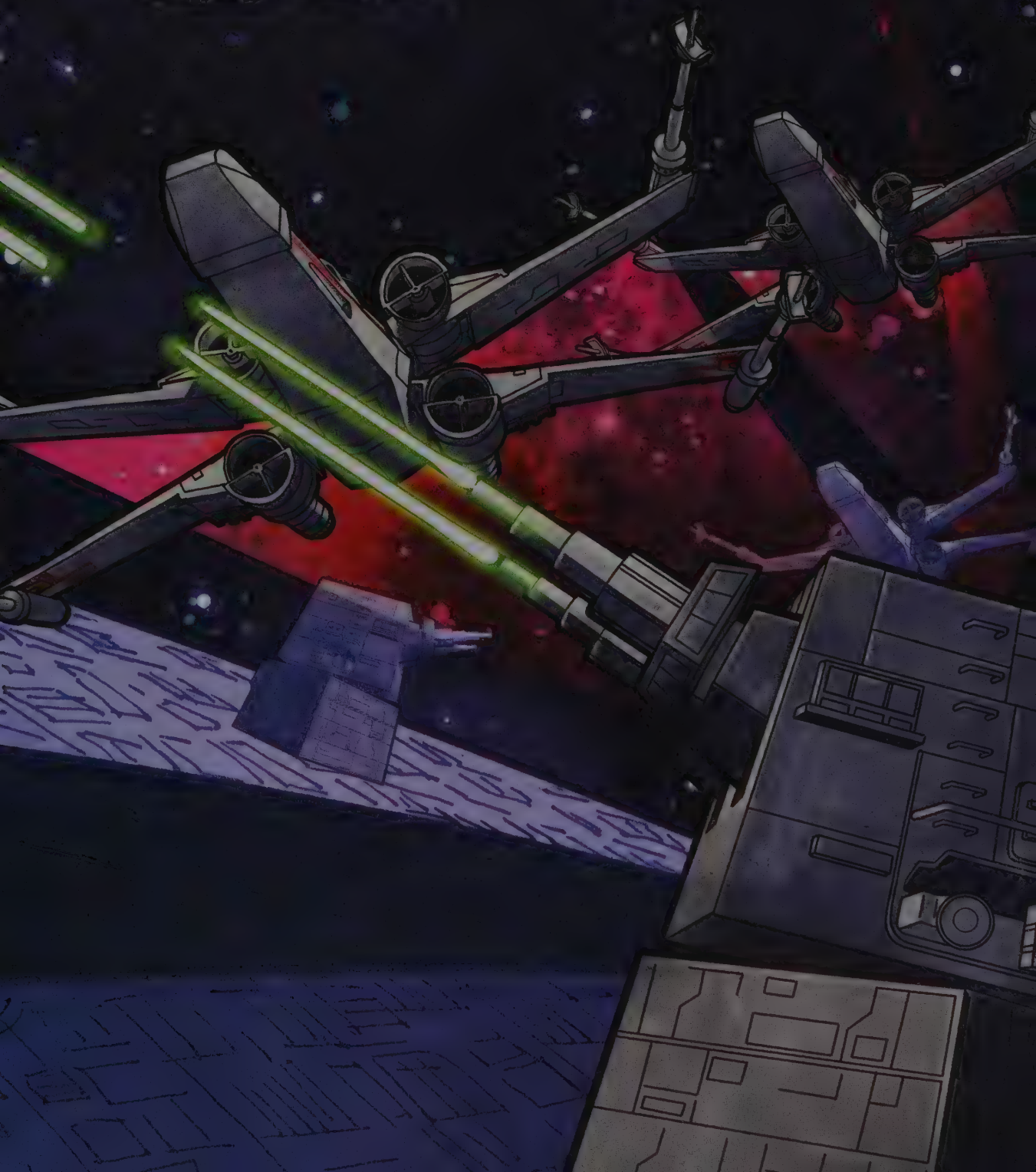
"Look at the size of that thing," one of the pilots said. As they approached the massive Death Star, everyone started to get nervous.

Luke heard a mysterious voice inside his head: *Luke, the Force will be with you. . . .*



Soon the Death Star's cannons began to shoot at the X-wings. Laser fire exploded all around Luke and his friends. But there was no time for hesitation.

"I'm going in," said Luke.

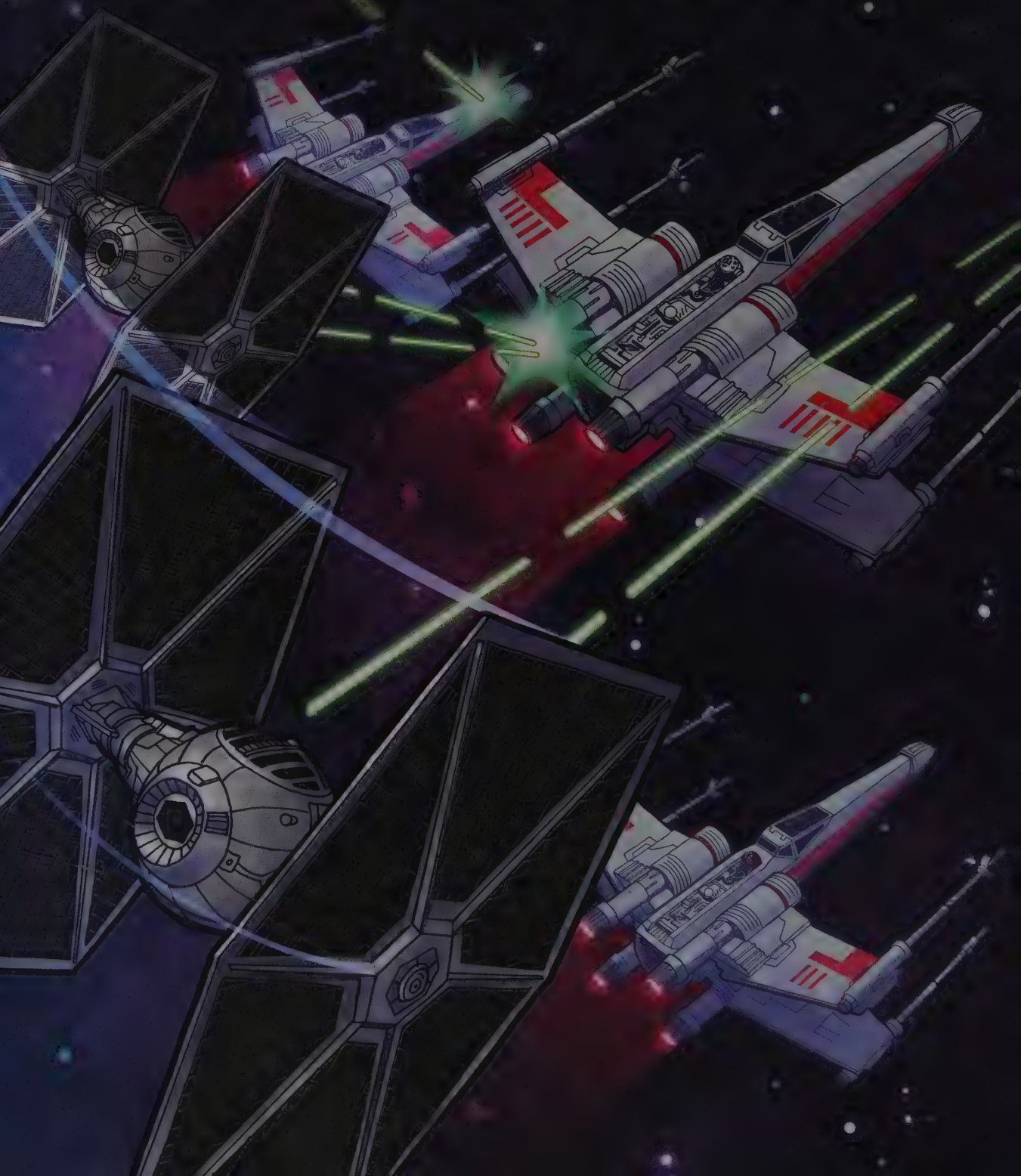




Luke heard the voice again: *Luke, trust your feelings.* The voice seemed familiar, and it helped Luke focus.

He dodged the laser fire and swooped toward the surface of the Death Star with the other X-wings.

But the X-wings were not alone. A fleet of TIE fighters appeared behind them. That was going to make things even more difficult, especially since Darth Vader himself was leading the enemy ships.





The TIE fighters fired on the X-wings. Luke's ship was shot! "I'm hit, but not bad," Luke told the other pilots. "Artoo, see what you can do back there." R2-D2 got to work fixing the damage. The little droid was both brave and smart.

The first of the X-wings entered the Death Star's trench. The lead pilot got close to the exhaust port—the one weakness of the giant space station.

The pilot fired . . . but he missed!





Back at the rebel base, Princess Leia and C-3PO were worried about their friends. But they were also worried about the Death Star. If it got too close to the base, it would destroy them all.

The second attack run of rebel ships dove into the canyon to take their shot. But they missed, too! It was all up to Luke. He just had to dodge Darth Vader and the enemy TIE fighters on his tail.





Luke tried to use the targeting computer to make the shot. But he heard the familiar voice in his head again: *Use the Force, Luke*. It was Obi-Wan!

Luke shut off the computer and trusted himself. Right as he was about to take his shot, Darth Vader's TIE fighter appeared behind him.



Darth Vader's lasers locked on to Luke's X-wing. "I have you now," Vader said triumphantly.

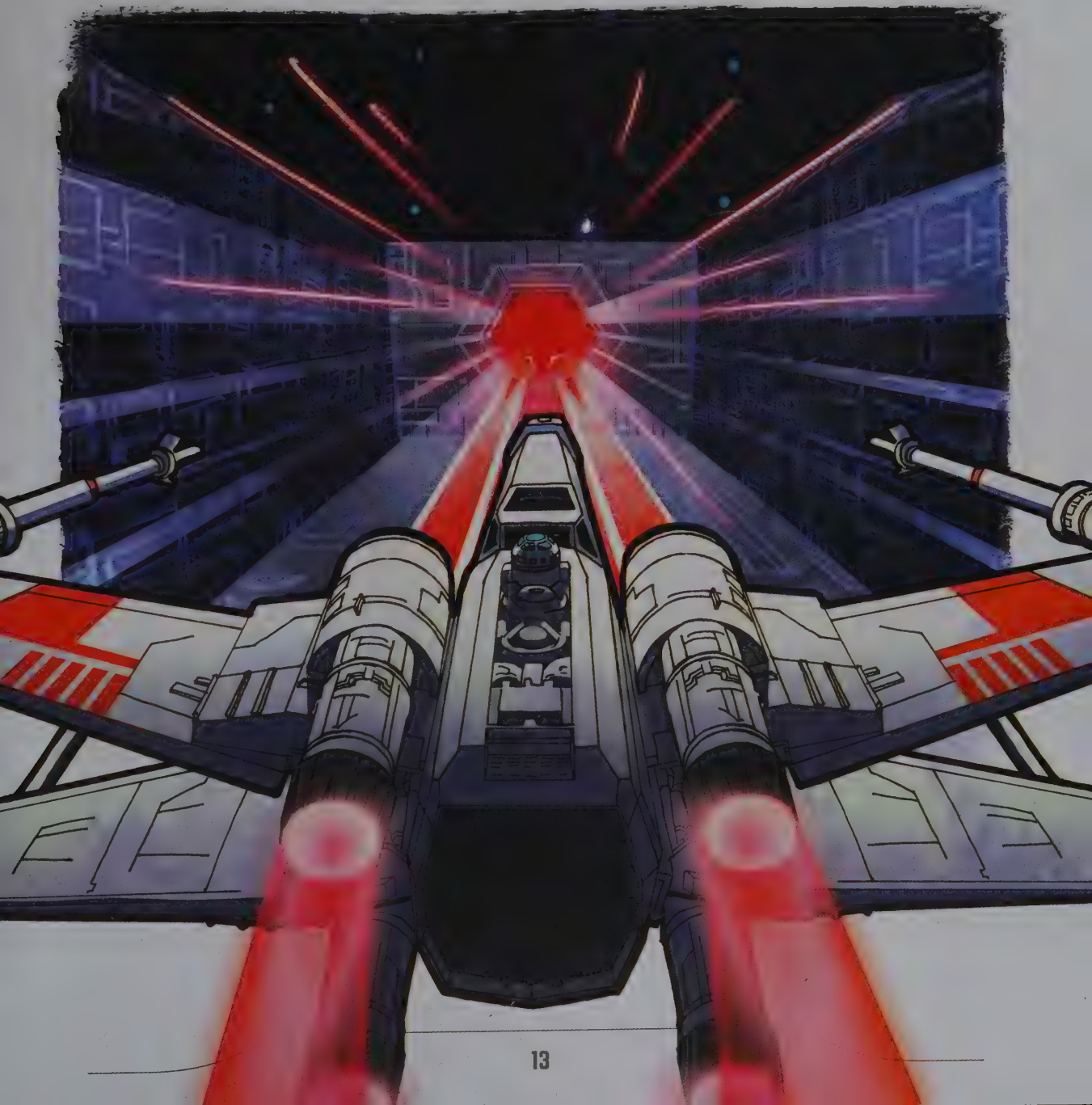
But before Vader could fire, another ship swooped in and shot all the TIE fighters. It was Han Solo in the *Millennium Falcon*! He had returned just in time to save his friend.

"Yahoo!" Han shouted with excitement. Then he added, "You're all clear, kid. Now let's blow this thing and go home!"

Luke was so happy his friend had joined the fight after all.

But everything still rested on Luke's shoulders. If he didn't make the shot, the rebels were doomed. Luke thought about what Obi-Wan had said.

Luke closed his eyes and used the Force. He waited . . . then, when the moment was right, he fired.



Luke did it! The torpedoes flew into the exhaust port. "Great shot, kid," Han Solo said. "That was one in a million!"

The rebel ships sped away from the Death Star as fast as they could.

Seconds later, the entire space station exploded in a giant burst of light! The Death Star had been destroyed.







As Luke and his friends flew to safety, he heard Obi-Wan's voice in his head one last time. *Remember, the Force will be with you. Always.*

Luke smiled to himself. He and his friends had defeated the Empire and rescued the rebels. And soon they would save the entire galaxy.

STAR WARS

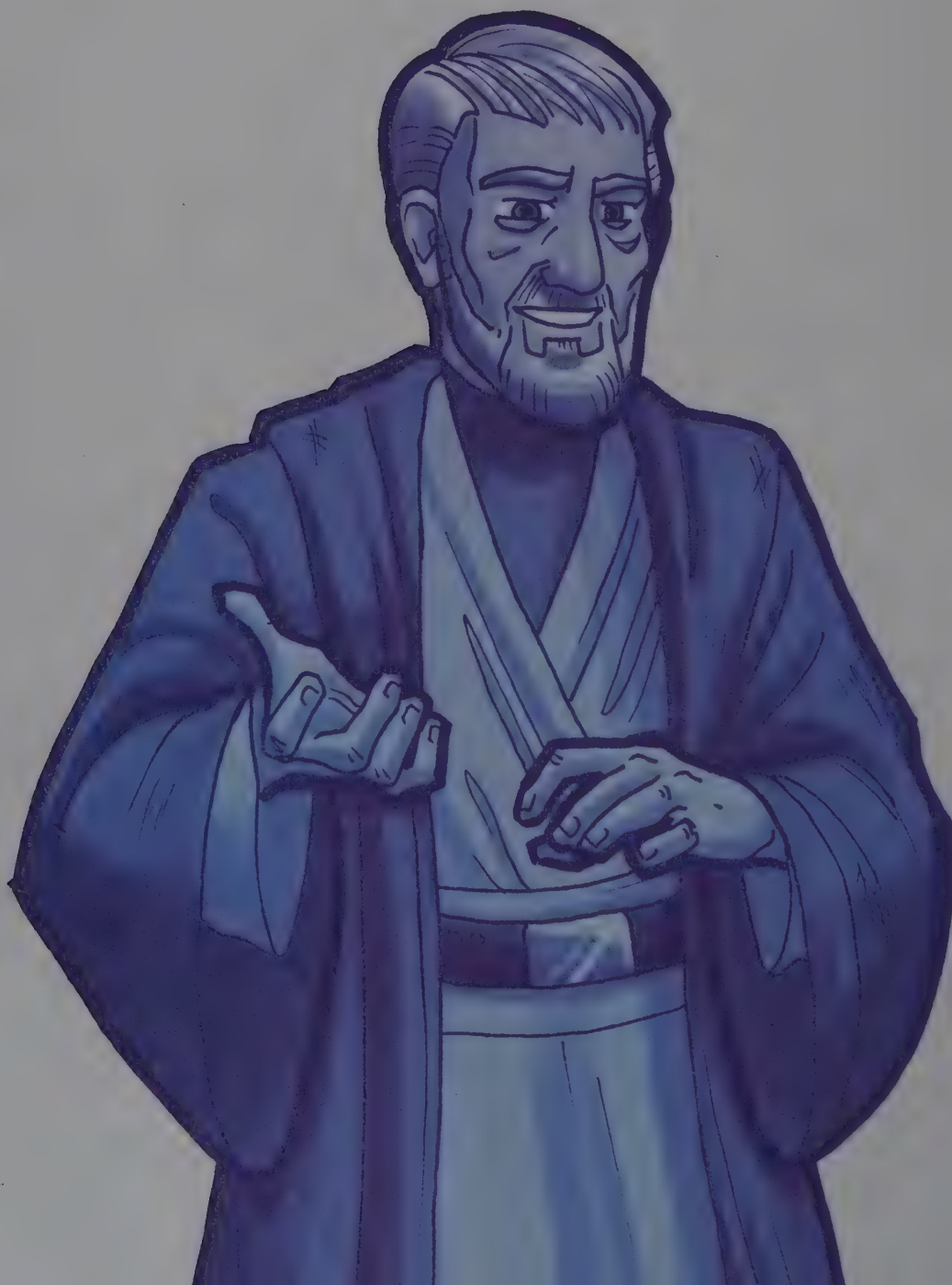
A JEDI, YOU MUST BECOME

Luke Skywalker would become one of the greatest Jedi Knights in the galaxy. But he wasn't always a powerful Jedi. In the beginning, he was just a boy—no different from any other.

Luke fought bravely as a pilot for the Rebellion. He even destroyed the Death Star! But Luke decided that he could best help the rebels if he trained to become a Jedi Knight.



In a vision, Luke's old friend Obi-Wan Kenobi said to him, *You will go to the Dagobah system. There you will learn from Yoda, the Jedi Master who instructed me.* Luke knew that Obi-Wan would appear to him only if his message was very important. Luke and his droid, R2-D2, flew to Dagobah right away.







Dagobah was not what Luke had expected. He thought a Jedi Master would live on a beautiful, serene world—but that was not what Dagobah was like at all!

The planet was wet, muggy, and crawling with bugs, critters, and wild animals. It could be summed up with one word—*gross*!

When Luke landed, his X-wing fighter sank right into the marsh water.

Suddenly, Luke felt someone watching him and he spun around, pulling out his blaster. Standing in front of Luke was a pale green creature with big pointy ears.

"I am wondering, why are you here?" the creature asked.

"I'm looking for a great warrior," Luke replied.

The creature shook his head. "A great warrior? Wars not make one great."

Luke had to admit the creature had a point. "I'm looking for a Jedi Master," he explained.

"Ohhhhh. Jedi Master," the creature said. "Yoda. You seek Yoda."



The creature promised to take Luke to Yoda. But first the creature stopped at his home and fed Luke dinner.

With no sign of Yoda anywhere, Luke grew impatient. "We're wasting our time!"

The creature turned away from Luke. "I cannot teach him. The boy has no patience. . . . He is not ready."



Luke suddenly realized that this was no ordinary creature. "Yoda!"

Yoda laughed at Luke. "Adventure—heh. Excitement—heh. A Jedi craves not these things. You are reckless."

Luke told Yoda that he had learned so much already and he was not afraid. Finally, Yoda agreed to train him.





Luke's first test was to run through a swampy obstacle course. As Luke trained his body, Yoda helped him develop his mind. "A Jedi uses the Force for knowledge and defense," Yoda said, "never for attack."

Luke began to understand that being a Jedi was less about him and more about helping others.

Luke also learned to move objects with the Force. One day, Luke stacked a tower of rocks with his mind—while standing on his head! But as Luke placed the final rock, his X-wing began to sink deeper into the swamp. Luke lost his concentration and fell to the ground with a thud.

Thinking about trying to raise his ship from the muck, Luke said to Yoda, "Moving stones around is one thing, but this is totally different."

"No, no different. You must unlearn what you have learned," Yoda said.

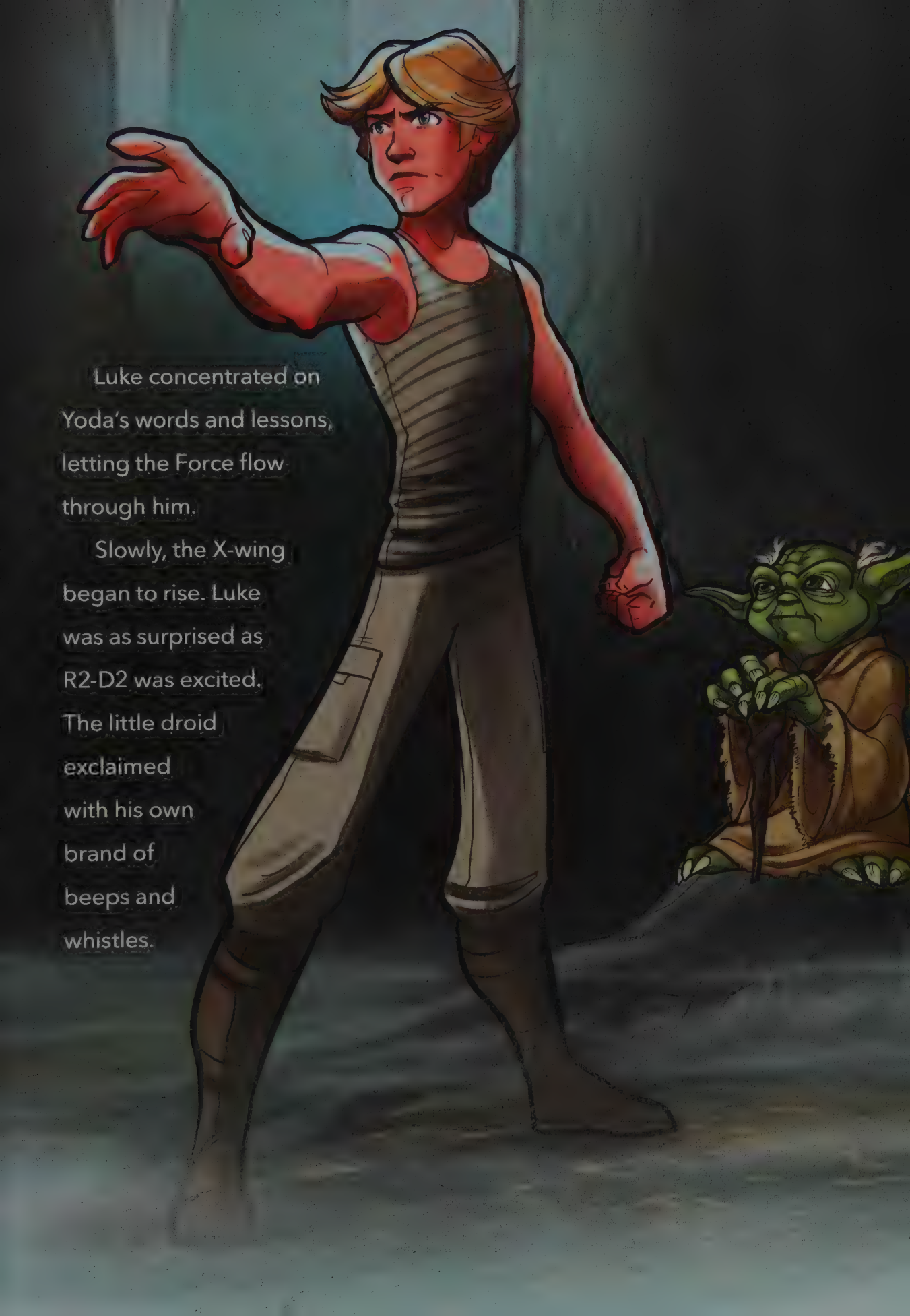


Luke concentrated again. He knew that he would one day have to confront Darth Vader, the powerful Sith Lord. He needed to be as strong in the Force as possible.

Luke turned back to the sunken X-wing and said, "All right, I'll give it a try. . . ."

Yoda stopped Luke, saying, "Do. Or do not. There is no try."





Luke concentrated on
Yoda's words and lessons,
letting the Force flow
through him.

Slowly, the X-wing
began to rise. Luke
was as surprised as
R2-D2 was excited.
The little droid
exclaimed
with his own
brand of
beeps and
whistles.



But Luke struggled with his doubts. He knew that an X-wing was very heavy. How could he possibly manage to lift it? Slowly, the ship sank back into the swamp.

Luke was sad and discouraged. "I can't. It's too big."

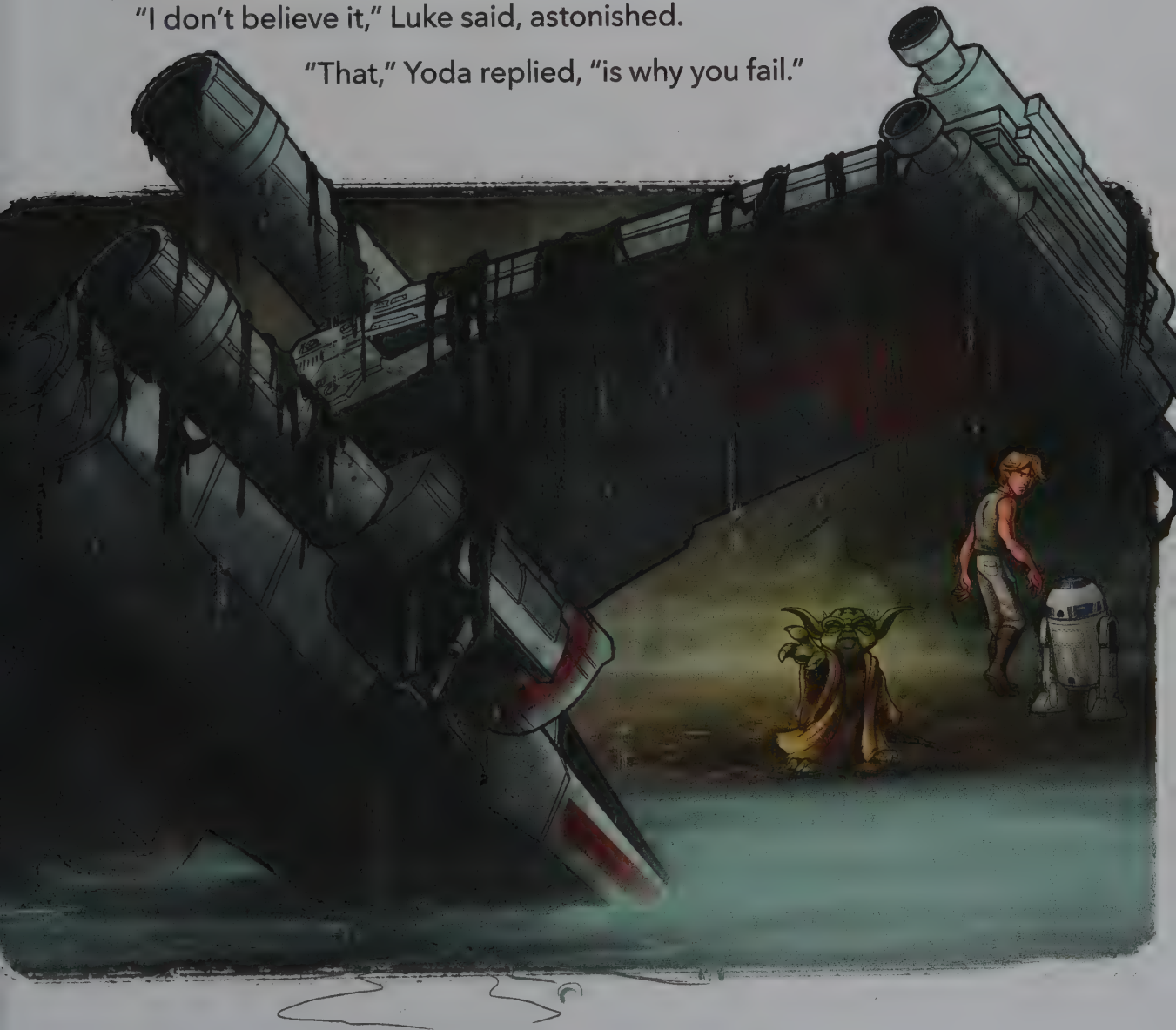
"Size matters not," Yoda said. "Look at me. Judge me by my size, do you?"

Yoda reached out with his tiny old hand, and the ship began to move!

Yoda concentrated even more and the ship floated through the air until it came to rest on solid ground.

"I don't believe it," Luke said, astonished.

"That," Yoda replied, "is why you fail."



Luke continued his training, more determined than ever. One day, Luke saw a vision through the Force. He saw his friends Han Solo and Princess Leia—and they were in trouble! They had been captured by Darth Vader.

"It is the future you see," Yoda explained.

"I've got to go to them," Luke insisted. He couldn't bear to think that Han and Leia were in danger.





Luke knew that a Jedi Knight was a defender, not an attacker. He acted out of protection rather than anger. It was a Jedi Knight's duty to put other people ahead of himself. Luke felt that he had come far enough in his Jedi training to make his own decisions.

Luke decided to put his training on hold and go rescue his friends.
"I'll return," he told Yoda. "I promise."

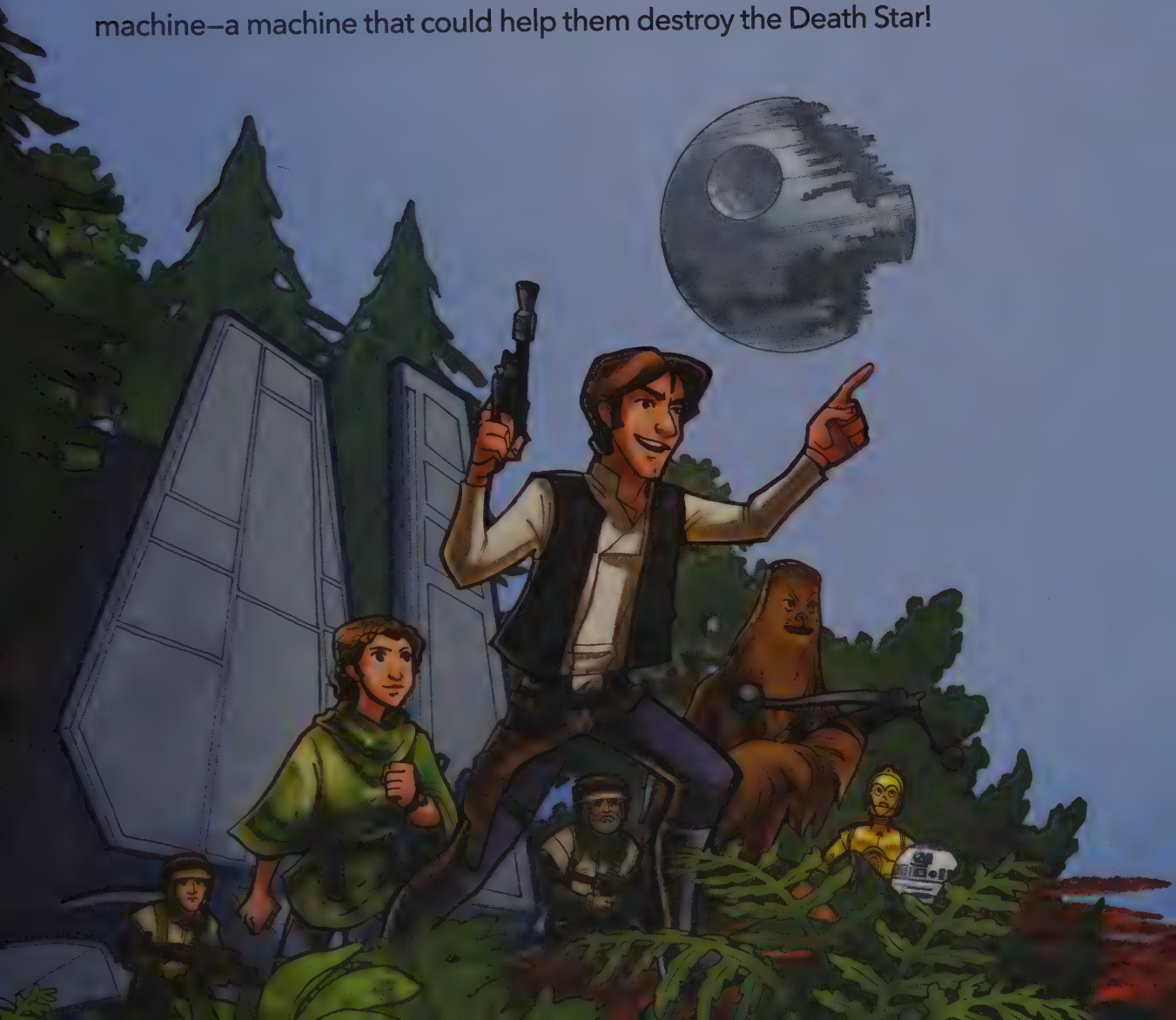
As Luke's ship took flight, Yoda wished that he had more time to help Luke prepare. Luke's battles would not be easy, but he was good at heart. No matter where he went, the Force would be with him, always.



STAR WARS

THE EWOKS JOIN THE FIGHT

Han Solo was on a special mission on the forest moon of Endor. He had landed there with Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, Chewbacca, R2-D2, and C-3PO. The rebels were looking for a secret bunker that hid a special machine—a machine that could help them destroy the Death Star!



As the rebels snuck through the forest, they spotted two biker scouts. The scouts patrolled the forest and guarded the bunker.

"Chewie and I will take care of this," Han said, pointing to the scouts.
"You stay here."

But as Han and Chewie attacked, more scouts appeared.





The scouts jumped on their speeder bikes and zoomed off to warn the Empire.

Luke and Leia climbed aboard two other bikes.

"Keep on that one. I'll take these two," Luke called, and sped away after the scouts.



Leia chased after the other scout. She managed to catch up to him, but then the scout fired his blaster at her. Leia tried to dodge the blast and rolled off her speeder.

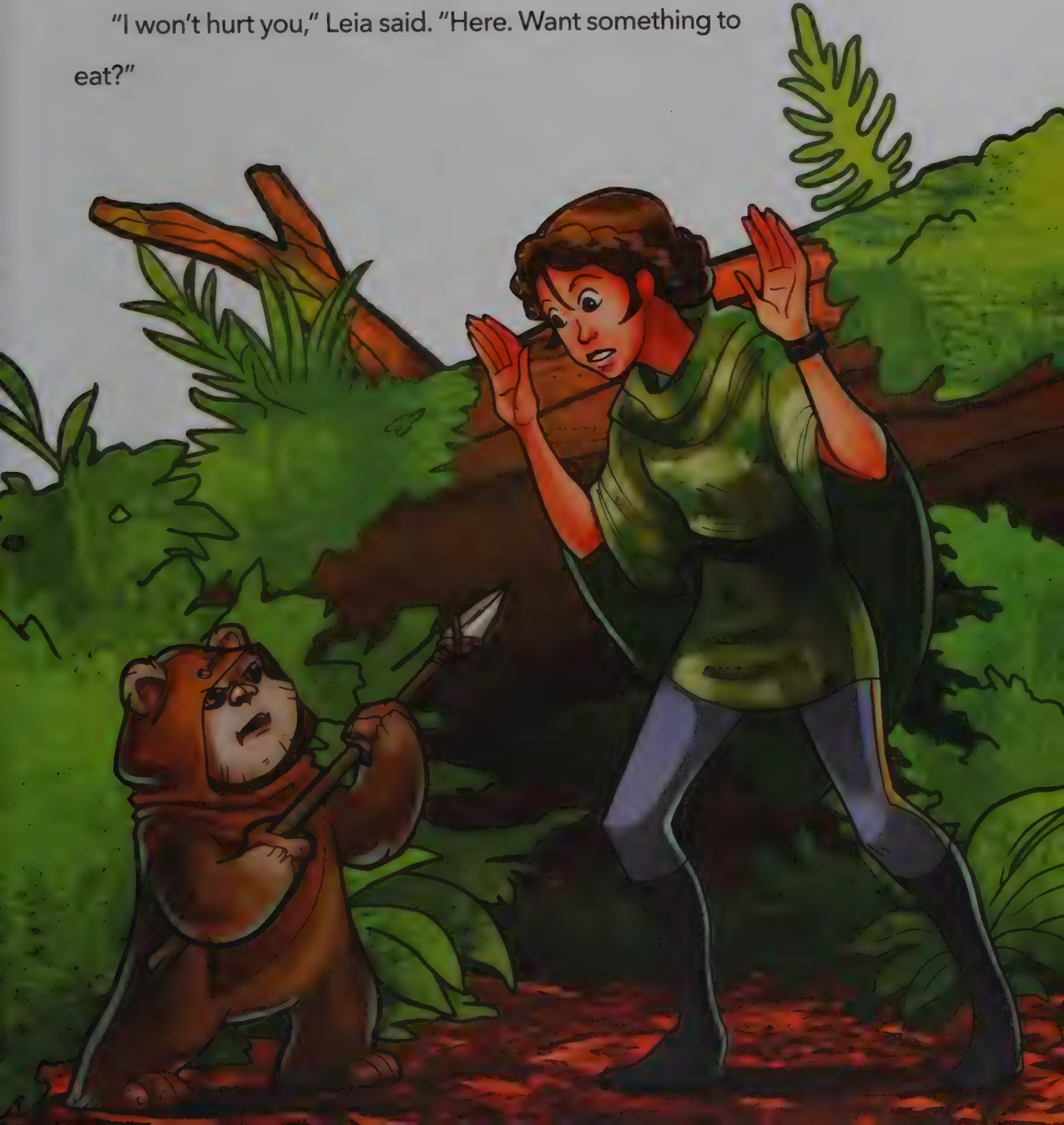
She was all alone in the forest, with no way to get back to her friends.

Suddenly, a small furry creature appeared. It was an Ewok. He poked at Leia with a sharp stick.

"Cut it out," Leia said, standing up and brushing herself off.

Leia sighed and looked down at the Ewok again. "Maybe you can help me," she said. But the Ewok seemed afraid of her.

"I won't hurt you," Leia said. "Here. Want something to eat?"





The Ewok was just getting comfortable with Leia when a biker scout appeared behind her! The Ewok quickly hid behind a log.

"Freeze!" the scout said.

Using a large stick, the hidden Ewok hit the trooper. Together, Leia and the Ewok disarmed the scout.

"Come on. Let's get out of here," Leia said.

The Ewok took Leia's hand and led her toward his village.

Meanwhile, Luke and his friends searched the forest for Leia. But all they found was a wrecked speeder and Princess Leia's helmet.

While they were looking for Leia, a group of Ewoks found *them*! The Ewoks did not seem happy about the strangers in their woods.

The Ewoks tied up the rebels and took them to their village.





When they arrived, the rebels were surprised to see Princess Leia! Leia tried to tell the Ewoks that Han, Luke, and Chewie were her friends, but they did not listen. Only C-3PO was allowed to remain free. The Ewoks seemed to think he was a powerful being.

"Threepio," Luke said. "Tell them if they don't do as you wish, you'll become angry and use your magic."

C-3PO did as Luke said, but the Ewoks still wouldn't listen.



Closing his eyes, Luke used the Force to make C-3PO float.

The Ewoks were amazed. Now they *knew* the droid was powerful. They quickly did as he said and untied his friends.



That night, the Ewoks gathered around C-3PO, who told them tales of the rebels and Darth Vader.

The Ewoks liked the stories. And they liked the rebels.

They decided to make the rebels part of their tribe!

One of the Ewoks jumped up and began to hug Han. As he did so, he jabbered away. But Han couldn't understand what he was saying.

"He says the Ewoks are going to show us the quickest way to the shield generator," C-3PO translated.



The next morning, when the rebels and the Ewoks set out for the hidden bunker, Luke did not go along. He knew it was time to face Darth Vader. Leia said goodbye to him and wished him luck.

Soon the rebels and the Ewoks arrived at the bunker.

"The main entrance is on the far side of that landing platform," Princess Leia explained. But the landing platform was surrounded by guards!

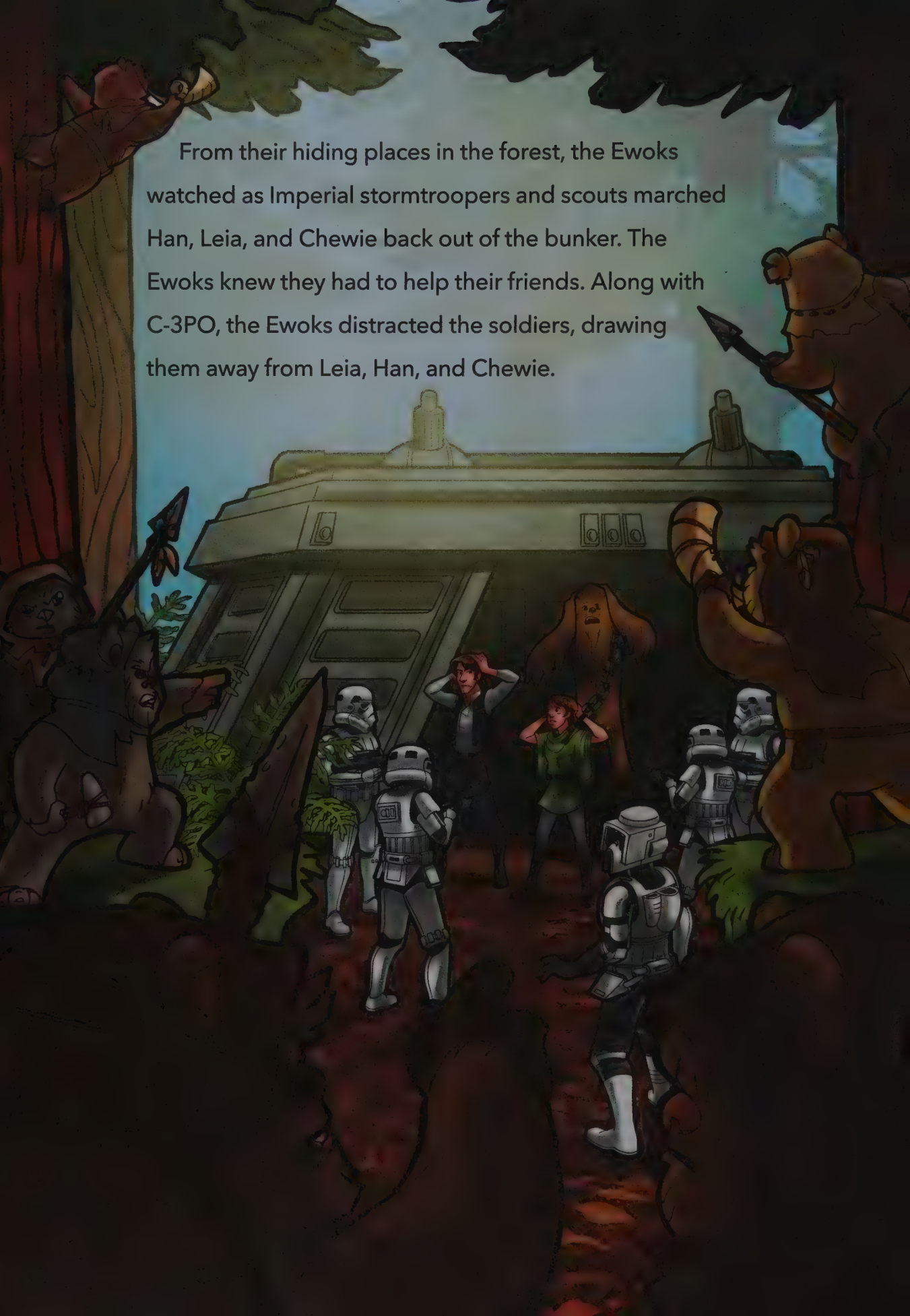
Luckily, the Ewoks knew of a back entrance. The rebels snuck around and surprised the Empire's scouts, quickly disarming them.





Han, Chewie, and Leia made their way deep inside the bunker. But before they could turn off the Death Star's shield generator, they were surrounded by Imperial soldiers. It was a trap! The Empire had been waiting for them.

From their hiding places in the forest, the Ewoks watched as Imperial stormtroopers and scouts marched Han, Leia, and Chewie back out of the bunker. The Ewoks knew they had to help their friends. Along with C-3PO, the Ewoks distracted the soldiers, drawing them away from Leia, Han, and Chewie.





The Ewoks knew just what to do.

They threw rocks at the stormtroopers.

They destroyed the Empire's machines.

They tripped the scouts and tied them up.



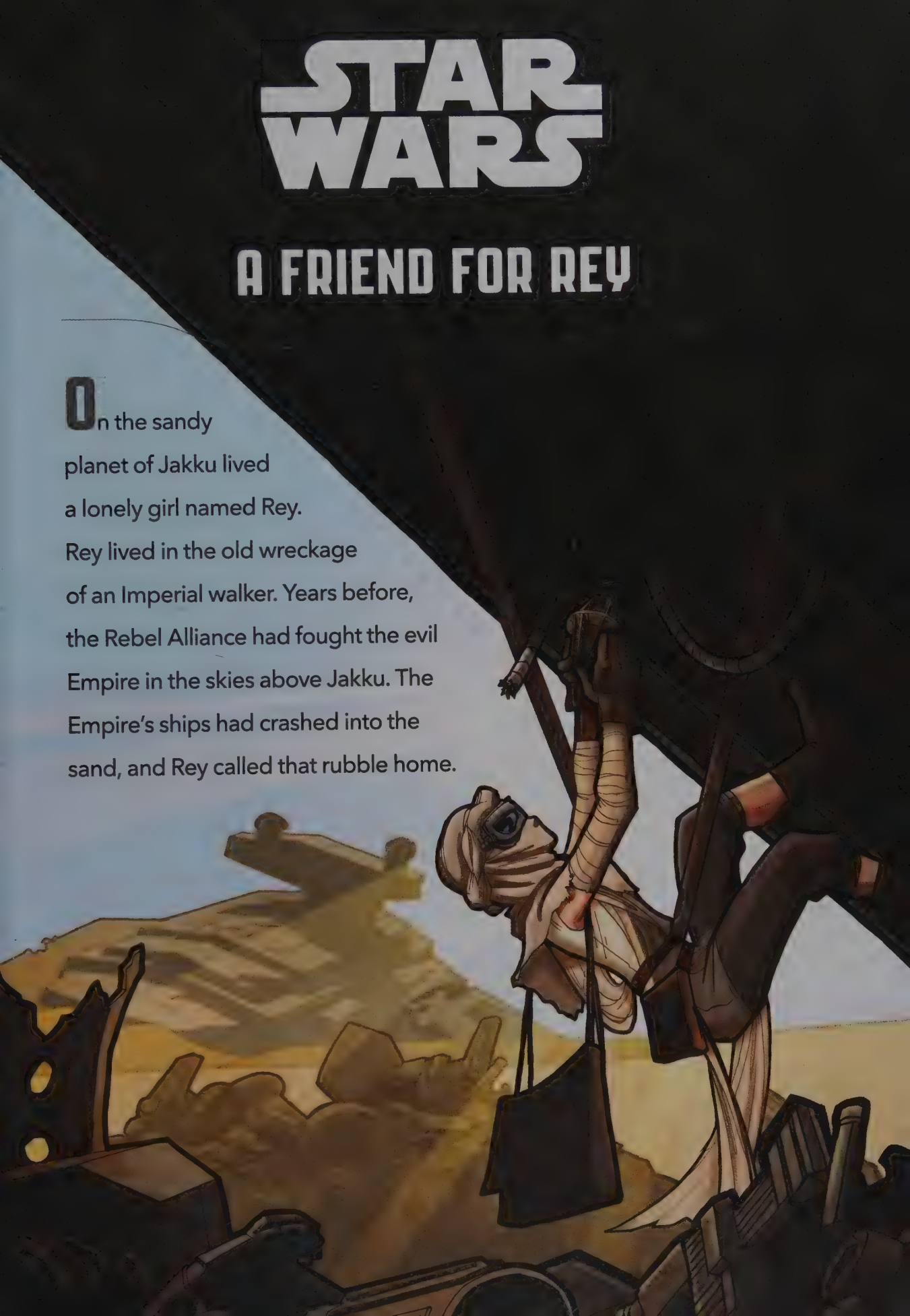
With the Empire's soldiers taken care of, Han Solo did what he had set out to do. He blew up the bunker! The Death Star was no longer protected.

Thanks to the Ewoks, the rebels could destroy the Death Star and defeat the Empire—once and for all.

STAR WARS

A FRIEND FOR REY

On the sandy planet of Jakku lived a lonely girl named Rey. Rey lived in the old wreckage of an Imperial walker. Years before, the Rebel Alliance had fought the evil Empire in the skies above Jakku. The Empire's ships had crashed into the sand, and Rey called that rubble home.



Rey searched the Empire's crashed ships to look for used parts. Rey could sell the parts to Unkar Plutt at Niima Outpost for food. Unkar was not always fair with his trades. But Rey made enough to get by.





One night Rey was eating the small dinner she had managed to get from Unkar by trading parts. Suddenly, she heard a beeping noise coming from outside. The beeping sounded . . . frightened? Rey ran toward the noise to see what was happening.

Rey saw an alien riding a scaly beast. The alien had trapped a little white-and-orange droid beneath a net, and the droid was beeping for help.

Rey called out to the alien to stop. She gripped her battle staff, ready to fight. But the alien just shouted angrily at Rey. She could tell he didn't want to fight her.

So Rey walked over to the droid and began cutting him out of the net.





The alien decided the droid wasn't worth the trouble. He rode away on his beast, still shouting insults at Rey.

The droid beeped questioningly.

"That's just a Teedo," Rey explained as the alien vanished in the distance. "Wants you for parts."

The droid thanked Rey for helping him and told her that his name was BB-8.

"Where'd you come from?" Rey asked the little droid.

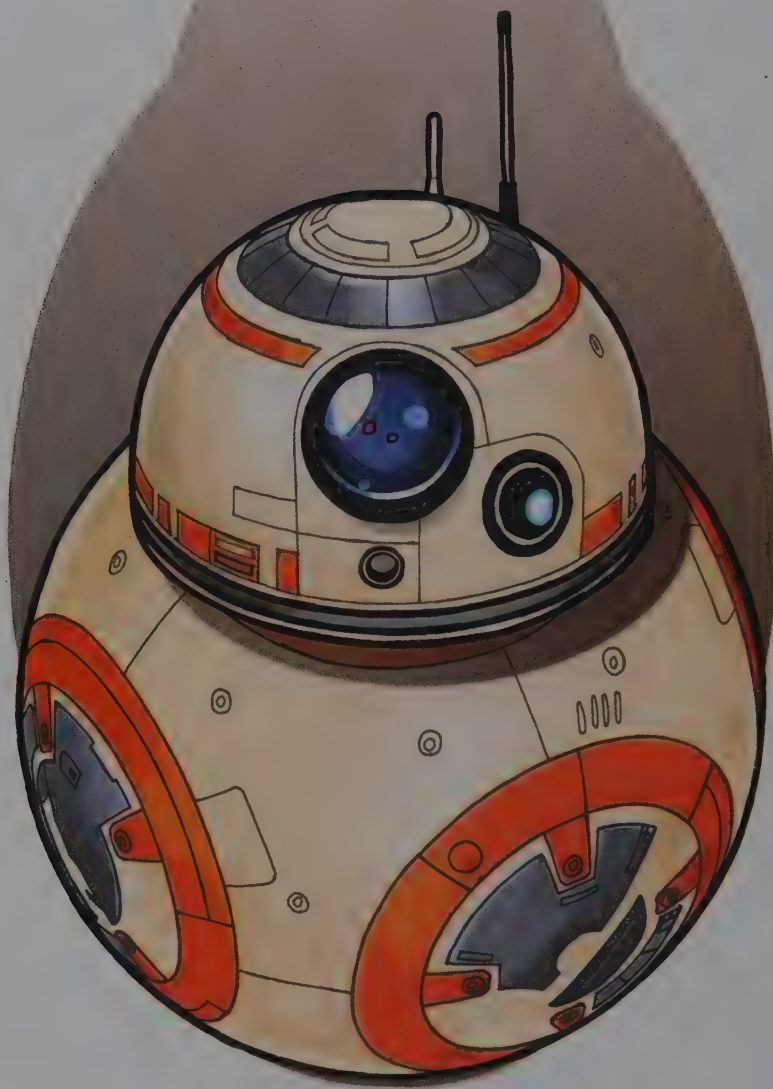
But BB-8 refused to tell her. He said it was a secret.

"Really? Well, me too. Big secret," Rey teased. If BB-8 wanted to keep to himself, that was fine by her. She told him how to get to Niima Outpost, then started to leave.

But BB-8 followed her.







"You can't come with me," Rey said.

BB-8 beeped sadly. He did not want to be alone in the big desert.

Rey sighed. She told BB-8 he could stay with her for one night—and *only* one night.

BB-8 beeped with happiness and followed Rey all the way home.



The next morning, Rey took BB-8 to Niima Outpost.

"There's a trader in bay three, might be able to give you a lift wherever you're going."

Once again, Rey started to leave BB-8 behind, but he refused to let her go. He insisted he was waiting for his owner to find him on Jakku.







Rey let BB-8 follow her to Unkar's. There she traded all the spare parts she had found the previous day. Unkar also offered to buy BB-8. He said he would give her months' worth of food for the droid.

BB-8 beeped in worry. He did not like where this conversation was going!

Rey thought about Unkar's offer. Selling BB-8 would give her more food than she had ever had in her life.

But as Rey looked at the little droid, she knew she could never sell him—no matter how much it would cost her.





"The droid is not for sale," Rey told Unkar.

Unkar was very angry. But Rey didn't care. Together, Rey and BB-8 left Unkar's shop behind them.

The pair walked side by side through the outpost, chatting happily.

Rey smiled to herself. She didn't know what her future held, but for now it was just nice to have a friend.

STAR WARS

RATHTARS ON THE LOOSE!

The *Millennium Falcon* zoomed through the far reaches of space on an important mission.

Inside the *Falcon* were Rey, a young scavenger; Finn, a former stormtrooper; and BB-8, a small droid with a big secret. The three new friends were flying to the Resistance's base to help in the fight against the evil First Order.

But their flight was cut short when a giant cargo ship appeared above them and pulled the *Falcon* inside.

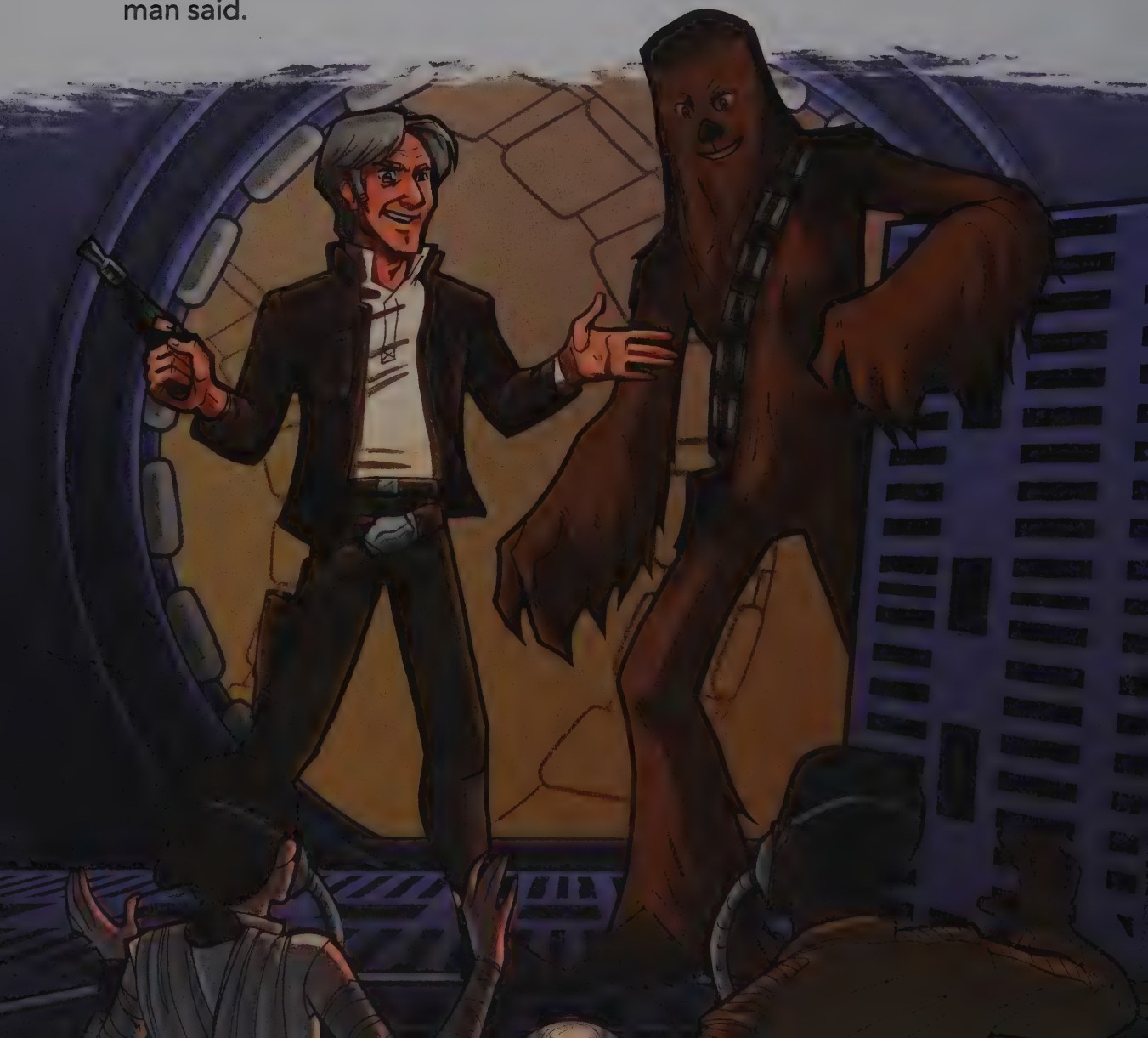


The three quickly hid as two figures climbed on board the *Falcon*.

It was a human and a Wookiee. The pair walked through the *Falcon*, examining the old ship. They seemed to know every corridor, every turn . . . and every hiding place! In no time at all, the man and the Wookiee found Finn, Rey, and BB-8.

"Where'd you get this ship?" the man asked. Rey explained that it had been left on Jakku, after it had been stolen many times.

"Well, Han Solo just stole back the *Millennium Falcon* for good!" the man said.





Rey couldn't believe her ears. Han Solo. *The* Han Solo!

Han had been a general in the Rebel Alliance. He and Chewbacca, the Wookiee, had helped Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and the rebels win the war against the evil Galactic Empire. They were heroes.

But Han was no longer a rebel general, and he wasn't part of the new Resistance. He just wanted Rey, Finn, and their droid off his ship.

"No!" Rey pleaded. "We have to get BB-8 to the Resistance base. He has information about Luke Skywalker."

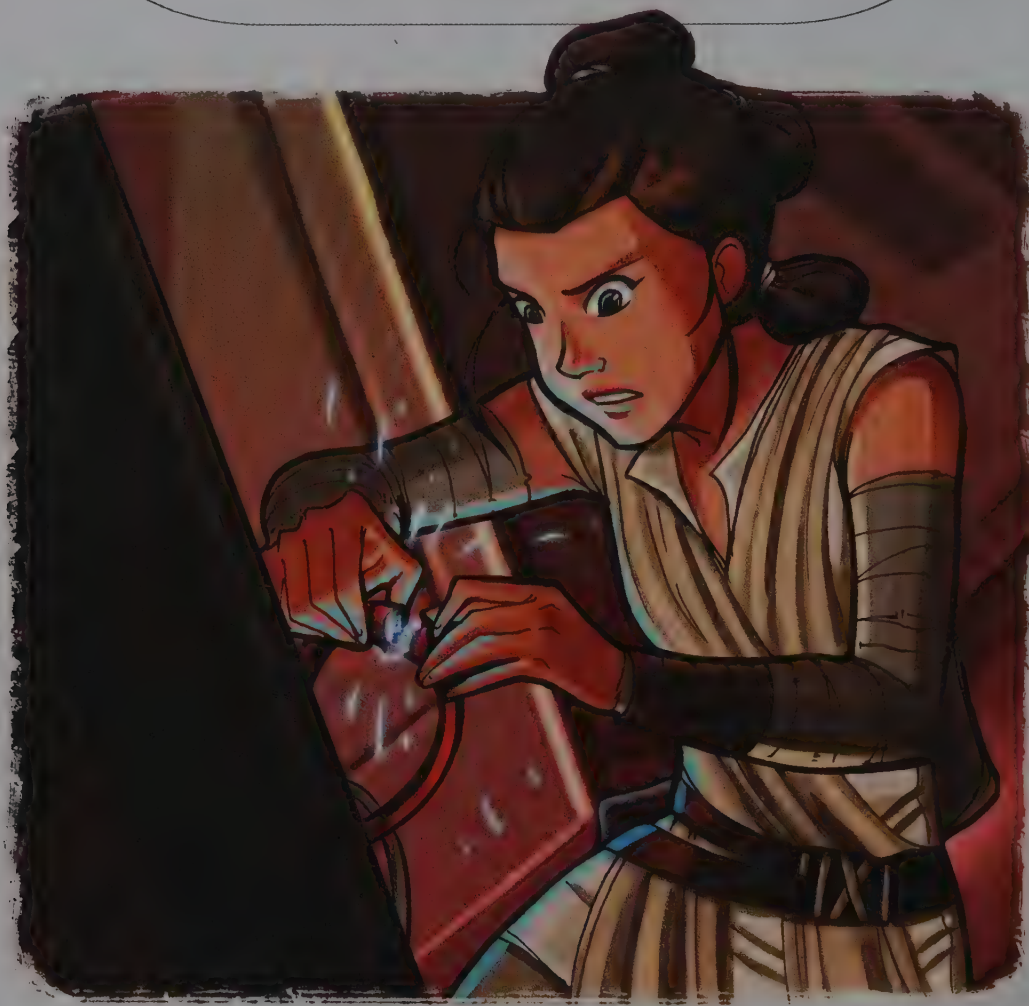
Han stopped in surprise. Luke had been missing for years. But before Han could ask Rey anything more, there was a loud metallic *KA-CHUNK!* Han ordered everyone to hide in the cargo bay while he and Chewie investigated.





Two dangerous gangs—the Guavian Death Gang and the Kanjiklub Gang—had worked together to enter Han’s cargo ship. Han owed money to both gangs, and they were there to collect.

It was a standoff, with Han and Chewie caught between two deadly enemies.



Han tried to talk his way out of a fight. "Guys. You're all gonna get what I promised. Have I ever not delivered before?"

"Twice," one of the gang leaders replied.

Rey and Finn could hear everything from their hiding place. They knew they had to help. "If we close the blast doors in that corridor, we can trap both gangs!" Rey said.

Quickly, Rey tried to rewire the door controls. But instead of closing the blast doors, she accidentally opened the doors to Han's cargo crates.

The lights flickered as a terrifying growl came from the open crates. Out slithered three rathtars—large creatures that looked like octopuses but crawled on land instead of underwater.

The rathtars attacked the gang members, giving Han and Chewie a chance to escape. They fought their way past many of the angry thugs. Han and Chewie wouldn't let anything or anyone stand in the way of their getting back to the *Falcon*.







Rey and Finn tried to get back to the *Falcon*, too. But one of the rathtars grabbed Finn and carried him off. Rey chased the beast through the cargo ship until she reached a control panel. Rey quickly flipped a few switches, and a large blast door closed directly on top of the creature. Finn was free!



As the battle raged on, Han and Chewie were getting closer and closer to the *Falcon*. But as they made their way toward the ship, Chewie got hit in the shoulder.

Han quickly grabbed Chewie's bowcaster and fired at the oncoming gang members. It worked! Han held them off long enough for everyone to get aboard the *Falcon*.

Han slid into the pilot seat as Finn helped Chewbacca to the medical bay. With Chewie hurt, Han would need someone to be his copilot. Rey quickly hopped into Chewie's seat.

"We're gonna jump to lightspeed," Han said.

"From inside the hangar? Is that even possible?" Rey asked.

"I never ask that question until after I've done it," was Han's only reply.

Han and Rey worked together to get the ship ready for lightspeed.

"Come on, baby, don't let me down!" Han said, then started the engines.



Nothing happened.

Rey figured out what was wrong right away and hit one more switch.

"Compressor," she explained matter-of-factly.

Han tried the hyperdrive again, and the *Falcon* blasted away from the massive cargo ship. There was no way the gangs would catch them now!



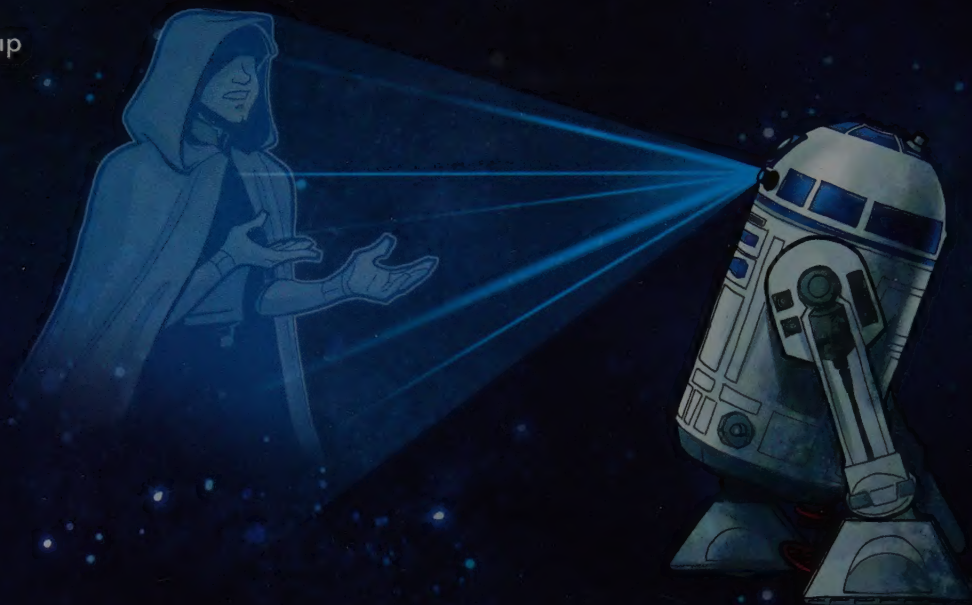


As the *Falcon* flew through space, the group began to talk. Rey and Finn explained that BB-8 contained vital information that could help the Resistance and stop the First Order once and for all.



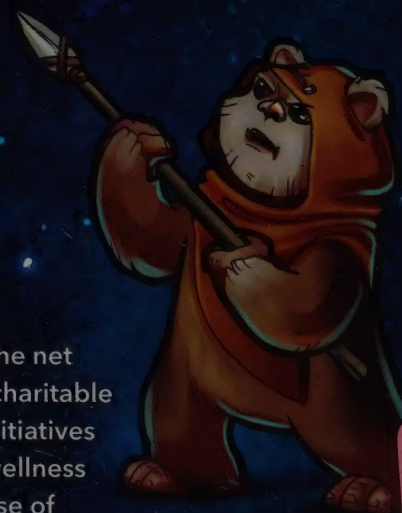
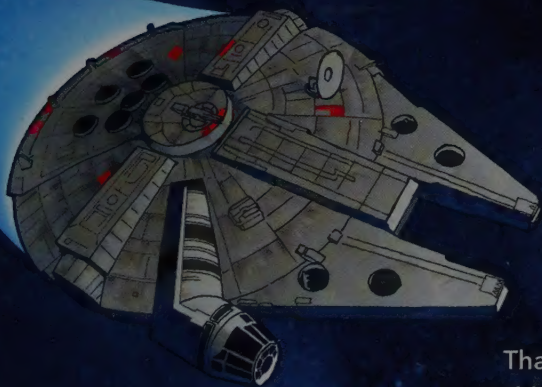
Han and Chewie agreed to fly them all to their destination. It felt right for the *Falcon* to be once again fighting an evil that threatened the galaxy. Together, they might even be able to defeat it.

Ages 6 and up



A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY....

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